

**THE MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY REVIEW
(NORTHERN IRELAND)**

**NINETEENTH STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING, TUESDAY 28th
SEPTEMBER 2004, AT THE QUALITY INN, CARRICKFERGUS**

Present: Professor David Bamford (Chair) Professor Roy McClelland
 Dr Diana Patterson Mrs Mary O'Boyle
 Miss Joanne McDonald Mrs Maureen Ferris
 Mrs Marie Crossin Ms Eileen Sherrard
 Mr Nevin Ringland Master Brian Hall
 Mr Patrick Convery Professor Alan Ferguson
 Mr Brendan Mullen Dr Oliver Shanks
 Mr Colin Beck Mrs Martha McClelland
 Mrs Maureen McCartney Mr Bill Halliday
 Mr Ian McFaul Mr Roy Keenan
 Mr Michael Kelly

Apologies: Dr Pascal McKeown Rev Trevor Williams
 Mr Brian Dornan Mrs Siobhan Bogues
 Professor Geoff Shepherd Dr Fred Browne
 Dr John Owens Ms Moira Davren
 Mr Mark Timoney Mr Leslie Frew
 Professor Scott Brown Mr Martin Daly
 Dr John Hunter Mr Winston McCartney
 Dr Raman Kapur Det S/dent Andrew Bailey

Welcome, Introduction And Apologies

1. Professor Bamford welcomed everyone to this nineteenth meeting of the Steering Committee, especially Mr Ian McFaul from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety who was working on the implementation of the Review's recommendations. He noted the apologies received and advised members that Professor Tony McGleenan had tendered his resignation from the Committee due to pressure of work, but he would still provide input to the Legal Issues Committee and the Human Rights and Equality Group.

Chairman's Communications

2. The Chairman reported that September had been a productive month for meetings. He particularly mentioned the Advocacy Information Seminar in Armagh and the 2-day Child and Adolescent Mental Health stakeholder event at the Royal College of Nursing, in Belfast. He felt that there was a collective energy amongst all the Working Committees towards producing their reports. Paper **SC 41/04** contained all the details of his diary and forthcoming Review events in October.
3. The draft Equal Lives report was expected to be published for consultation shortly. Copies will be posted to members in due course. An e-mail version, on a chapter by chapter basis, would also be available.
4. He also advised that the web site was being updated.

Note of the Last Meeting (Paper SC 40/04)

5. The note was agreed as drafted.

Matters Arising

(i) Workforce Issues

6. Copies of a re-draft of the DHSSPS Workforce Exercise report had been issued to Committee members on the project. A further meeting with these representatives would be arranged to consider a response to the Department.

(ii) Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) Paper

7. Professor Bamford said that he had written to the Health Boards asking them to confirm the deadline of 31 October for their 4-Board approach to developing a strategy on ASD and the assurance of the Review's involvement in the work. One reply had been received to date. Initial consideration has been given to holding a

stakeholder consultation event in November/December 2004. Mrs Maureen Ferris advised that the Department of Education and voluntary groups were also involved in the 4-Board approach.

The Review Two Years On: Taking Stock Of The Process And Progress

8. Professor Bamford reminded members that the Review celebrated its 2nd Birthday on 1st October 2004 and felt now was an appropriate time to take stock. He hoped that the work could be completed by this time next year and knew that most Convenors were aiming to have their reports finalised by next Spring.
9. Professor McClelland praised the tremendous and impressive depth of effort from members. This was echoed by others present, some of whom said it would be difficult to capture in the end products the energy and commitment of so many people.
10. The role of users and carers in the Review was highlighted. Various members felt there was a lack of a local focal point for these groups and that the Review was providing this. The opportunity for these groups to be heard needed to continue **after the Review**, with money and resources provided to enable them to continue their work. The attitude of and communication between professionals and users and carers was also discussed. Members agreed that there needed to be a move towards a partnership model.
11. Members stressed that the Review **must** produce change. Resources and modernisation were key issues to the future. It was suggested that implementation committee(s) should be established. These could mirror the Review's current Working Committee structure. It was vital to maintain ownership of the Review's recommendations and to monitor their implementation. How this could be done was an issue for DHSSPS to consider.
12. Professor Bamford thanked members for their thoughtful and helpful contributions.

FREEPHONE TELEPHONE MESSAGE LINE (PAPER SC42/04).

13. Mrs McCartney tabled this paper which summarised all the calls received on the Freephone message line. She advised that recently the number of callers has been declining. The number (0800 3284260) was available on the web site. She agreed to look at ways in which the Freephone could be more widely advertised. In response to questions, she advised that calls are transcribed and forwarded to convenors, as appropriate or Mencap etc.

Reports From Working Committees

Dementia And Mental Health Issues Of Older People

14. Nevin Ringland reported that he had been working on a Critical Path Analysis, Timescales and Report headings for his committee, which he tabled. He hoped to have the initial “Thoughts” Report headings ready by the end of the month, with a final report by late 2005.
15. The “Thoughts” headings raised interface issues with the Adult Mental Health and Alcohol and Substance Misuse Committees, all of whose Reports needed to mesh together. For example, members raised the issue of those over 65 with a functional mental illness and whether they should be cared for in separate units. Members suggested that accommodation issues and daytime occupation should be added to the list of topics for sections.
16. Brain injury was an area where patient/client service requirements needed to be addressed. It was difficult to provide something outside the hospital setting. However, the overlap between this Committee and the Adult Mental Health Committee on this topic raised the possibility of challenging the current position, but there was a need to be consistent on the wording in both reports.
17. As regards consultation, Nevin Ringland advised that the Committee was establishing a series of meetings and a timetable. These would be externally

facilitated and would be completed by the end of the year. He would advise members of the dates and encouraged them to attend.

18. It was pointed out that the Carers' Reference Group does not contain anyone who cares for a family member with Dementia, and that thought needed to be given on how to involve carers.

Mental Health Promotion

19. Professor Ferguson reported that expert papers were still being considered. Responses to their recent questionnaire had been received. These had asked for details on gaps in provision and good practice models. Meetings have been arranged with Moira Davren and the Department of Education to discuss interface issues. Advocacy and Alcohol and Substance Misuse issues are also to be looked at.
20. He stressed that it was not his Committee's role to re-write the Inter-Departmental Strategy on Mental Health Promotion. His Committee would challenge assumptions, structures, dynamics and priorities given to the subject. This will include drawing attention to what is not happening. He hoped to have a draft report for the Steering Committee by January 2005.

Alcohol and Substance Misuse

21. Diana Patterson stated that her Committee were still drafting. Their research project was being extended to cover all of Northern Ireland and it was hoped to have the work completed by November. She had written to the Support Team seeking increased back-up support due to the amount of work required over the next few months. Robin Davidson had resigned from the group due to ill health, but his work on counselling issues had been completed.

Social Justice and Citizenship

22. Bill Halliday reported that work was ongoing. Meetings with Diana Patterson and Brian Hall to discuss interface issues had taken place in early September. Brian Dornan had made a presentation on Resources to the Human Rights & Equality group's last meeting, which proved very useful. He had agreed to return at a future date, if necessary. The Promoting Social Inclusion outline report should be ready by October 2004.
23. The Advocacy Information Seminar in Armagh on Saturday 25th September had gone well and it was important not to lose sight of the issues discussed. Different forms of advocacy are required for different purposes. Colin Beck added that Advocacy was a statutory right in Scotland and this was something the Review would want to take a view on for Northern Ireland.

Legal Issues

24. Master Hall reported that the Legal Issues sub groups have established a programme of work for the rest of this year, aimed at producing a draft report for early 2005. Members were reminded of the seminar being held on Tuesday 19th October in Malone House, Belfast, where Professor Robert Gordon from Canada will give a talk on some key issues, such as Public Guardianship, Substitute Decision Making, Capacity and Needs Assessment. Members will shortly receive an invitation and were urged to attend.

Adult Mental Health

25. Professor Roy McClelland stated that numerous consultation responses had been received. Key messages were that the document was too long and had too many recommendations. Work was ongoing to re-work the report, with 3 Committee meetings lined up in October.

Needs and Resources

26. In Brian Dornan's absence, Professor Bamford tabled a report from him on the 4th report of the Capitation Formula Review Group on which he offered to make a presentation to either the Steering Committee or the Convenors. Members agreed that it should initially be made to the Convenors and that all Steering Committee members would be invited.

Date of Next Meeting

27. The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 26th October 2004 at the Lagan Valley Island Centre, Lisburn**, beginning at 10.00 am.

Any Other Business

28. Members were advised that some Advocacy Seminar packs were available.